

REMARKS

Claims 30-63 are pending in the present application. The examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group 1: claims 30-33, 36-37, 39-40, 43, and 60-61; and

Group 2: claims 34-35, 38, 41-42, 44-59, and 62-63.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group 1, claims 30-33, 36-37, 39-40, 43, and 60-61.

The Office Action seems to be requiring restriction between a first invention that includes limitations relating to a rearranging unit or step (as recited, for example, in claim 30) and a second invention that includes limitations related to an incremental width determining unit or step (as recited, for example, in claim 34). However, the claim groupings proposed by the examiner are not consistent with this requirement. Specifically, some of the Group II claims recite the “rearranging” found among claims in Group I.

Applicants maintain that restriction is not required in the present application at least because searching all claims together will not constitute an undue burden on the examiner. However, assuming for sake of argument only that restriction is called for in the present case, it is submitted that, based on the comments in the Restriction Requirement, the claim groupings should be as follows:

Group 1A: claims 30-33, 36-40, 43-49, 51-57, 59, and 60-63

Group 2A: claims 34-35, 41-42, 50 and 58.

If the examiner agrees that the above-recited Group 1A is proper, Applicants will elect to prosecute the claims of the above-defined Group 1A.

Application No.: 10/543,005
Response to Office Action of October 16, 2007
Amendment dated January 16, 2007

Docket No.: 1907-0227PUS1

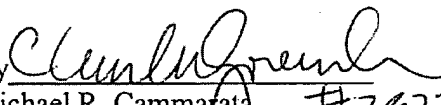
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James M. Alpert, Registration No. 59926 at (703) 205-8062, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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